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G. R. S. 58]

Previous references. 1925 (C.B.)

File No. 31/24

Serial Nos. 88489

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 88 & 89

Part B for January 1925–

SUBJECT

Activities of Mr. Purushottam Das Thandon & Allahabad at Bangalore

CS 1179

Confidential.

No. J.C. 700/21.22
D.O. Encl. 3.

Office of the Dist. Magistrate,
Bangalore District.

Dated Bangalore, 3rd January 1925.

CB 31-24-88

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit herewith copies of confidential reports Nos. 50 and 51 dated 31st December 1924 and 2nd Jan. 1925 respectively from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bangalore City, reporting the movements of certain political agitators of British India. A copy of the printed notice announcing the delivery of a lecture by one Mr. Purushotham Das Thandon of Allahabad is also enclosed. The Assistant Superintendent of Police promises to submit a further report on the proceedings of the meeting held last evening.

Yours sincerely,

To

K. Matthan, Esq., B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Dewan

5.1.25

Dewan

P.O.

Rs. P.R.O. 6/1/25

Confidential.

No.50.

To

The District Magistrate,

Bangalore District.

Submitted.

I beg to report that non-co-operators Messrs.Lala Lajaput Rai of Punjab and S. Srinivasa Iyengar of Madras who arrived from Belgaum yesterday morning left this last night the former to Seringapatam and the latter to Erode. The individuals were pointed out to the Railway Travelling Constable.

Sd. K. Mahamad Hussain.
31-12-24. Asst. Supt.of Police,Bangalore City.

Copy

District Magistrate,Bangalore District.

Confidential.

No.51.

To

The District Magistrate,
Bangalore District.

Submitted.

I beg to enclose herein notices in duplicate issued by the President, Bangalore District Congress Committee announcing a Public lecture by Sjt.Purushotham Das Thandon of Allahabad today at 6 P.M. in the Rathnavali Theatre, Kalasipalyam and that Sjt.Lala Lajaput Rai is expected to be present returning from Mysore. This Purushothama Das Tandon arrived yesterday from Belgaum. The proceedings will be watched and reported through the Stenographer, Chief Office.

2-1-1925.

Sd. K. Mahamad Hussain.
Asst.Supt.of Police, Bangalore City.

Copy

B Srinivasa Rao

District Magistrate, Bangalore Dist.

THE

BANGALORE DISTRICT CONGRESSS COMMITTEE,

BANGALORE CITY.

A PUBLIC LECTURE ON

'A National Language for India'

WILL BE DELIVERED BY

Sjt. PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON

OF ALLAHABAD

On Friday the 2nd January 1925 at 6 P. M.

IN THE RATNAVALI THEATRE, KALASIPALYAM.

Sjt. LALA LAJAPAT RAI

is expected to grace the meeting with his presence

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

K. Narayaniengar,

President.

Caxton Press, Bangalore City—1924.

CB-1198

Confidential.

Office of the District Magistrate,
Bangalore District.
Dated Bangalore, 6th January 1925.

JC 700
Secret.

CB 31-24-89

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit herewith a copy of confidential report No.52 dated 5th instant from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bangalore City, together with a copy of its enclosure submitting the proceedings of the meeting of the 2nd instant in which one Sjt. Purushotham Das Tandon of Allahabad delivered a lecture on "A National Language for India".

Yours sincerely,

B Seshadri Rao

To

K. Matthan, Esq., B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Dewan 9 JAN 1925

No.52.

To

The District Magistrate,
Bangalore District.

Submitted.

In continuation of my report No.51 of 2nd instant, I beg to state that the lecture of Sjt.Purushottam Das Tandon was watched on the evening of 2nd instant by the Stenographer and he has sent up his report of the proceedings today. A copy is enclosed for kind perusal. Mr. Purushottam Das and Lala Lajput Rai left Bangalore to Madras that night. Mr. Lala Lajpat Rai returned from Mysore that evening by 7 P.M. train.

Sd. K. Mahamad Hussain.
5-1-1925. Asst. Supt. of Police, Bangalore City.

Copy of Encl.

Notes of a public lecture delivered by Sjt.Purushottam Das Tandon of Allahabad on "A National Language for India" on Friday the 2nd January 1925 at 6.30 P.M. in the Ratnavali Theatre, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore City, under the auspices of the Bangalore District Congress Committee, Bangalore City.

About 700-800 people attended the meeting and Sjt.Lala Lajput Rai did not turn up till 7.30 and the proceedings of the meeting commenced at 6.30 P.M. with Mr.B.K.Garudachar in the Chair.

Vande Mataram was sung by 3 volunteers and then Mr.B.K. Garudachar in introducing the lecturer said:- Before I introduce the lecturer, I wish to give you a short history of the gentleman. He is a B.A.,B.L. of the Allahabad University and was a Vakil between 1914-16 and then he was the Dewan of Nabha. He again reverted to his practice as a lawyer. In 1919 he was the President of the Allahabad Municipality and like all National leaders he stayed in Jail for 14 months. After his release, he took up the work of starting a Hindi University and has started many schools in Allahabad and he is going round here for the same purpose and I think I am agreed in saying the philanthropic object

of his, namely the spread of Hindi language may be attained at least so far as Mysore Province is concerned. I may say here as President of the National High School we have started a Hindi class there and have been doing some work and I only say that unless we have a common language for India the nationalisation will not be attained. I wish his scheme will be successful in Mysore.

An address was then delivered to Sjt. Purushottamdas Tandon.

The lecturer delivered his lecture first in Hindi and then in English.

He began as follows:- I will now express in English the ideas I have been preponderating in the Hindi language. I do not quite like the idea of having to talk to you in English. The whole theme of my lecture today is to request you not to carry on your national and provincial work in English. At the present stage, it is necessary for me to talk to you in English if I wish to approach your hearts and in that foreign language I will say a few words.

The subject on which I have to talk to you today is the necessity for a national ~~xk~~ language. The fact is admitted, has been admitted several times by some of our greatest leaders and men. It is admitted in all hands that it is a disgrace a shame that we should have to carry our national work in a foreign language. Mahatma Gandhi spoke to that effect, Tagore spoke to that effect, Mrs. Besant has also admitted the necessity of that one. Almost all our leaders theoretically have admitted that it is not right, proper, it is not dignified from a national point of view, that we should have to carry on our work in a foreign language. Up till now we have not entirely been able to regulate our work in such a manner that we may totally dispense with the use of English and carry on our work in our own tongue. Hindustani today is the language of 22 crores of people. Perhaps some of you are surprised to hear the population of our country is 33 crores. This language is spoken and written by over 14 crores.

The English language today has not so many votaries as the Hindi language (Hear, Hear). England, America, all these countries put together do not have the same number of votaries as the Hindustani. How many of our people know the English language, a fractional few. Have they reacted on the masses. The Congress would have done more work if its work had been conducted in the language of the people. I remember Mahatma Gandhi wrote somewhere "The leaders of the Congress have done a great injustice to the people in carrying on the work of that National Assembly in the English language". They, our leaders have segregated themselves from our people, the masses. Just conceive what our country would have been if all that vast literature, the national literature were in the language of the people. From the beginning I am connected with the Congress movement for many years. From the beginning, it was thus confined to only a few. The vast influence which the Congress is exercising today is the result of only a few years of work. I remember it was for the first time at Delhi when a number of peasants from up-country had come to attend the Congress. The reception Committee had thrown open to all. Leader after leader came to the platform and began his speech in English. They cried "Hindistani" "Hindustani". That was the assertion of the masses. They asserted themselves. The President Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya had to speak in Hindi. The Congress has progressed rapidly after the Delhi Congress. Today it is impossible for delegates to continue to speak in Hindi and challenge the masses. Even in Belgaum just far away from all centres of Hindi, the people shouted for Hindi. Is it not really disgraceful to carry on our work in English. You must show that you are able to carry on your work without the help of the English language. Today we are a slavish people before the whole world. (Just then Sjt. Lala Rajput Rai arrived at the Theatre). You cannot possibly conceive of your parliament sitting down and discussing in all seriousness the questions connected with your country in the language of England. That cannot be. You have to prepare for it today. You have no idea as to what all the people in the other countries think of you, when they are informed that

your national proceedings are carried on in the English language. Can you conceive what they are likely to think of you. They know already that you are slaves and yet you hug the chains that bind. You are by the adoption of English for national purposes only helping the chains that bind you continue to bind you for a longer time. I therefore ask you in all seriousness to make an attempt today and now to begin to study that language which should be used for the national work of the country.

How can you possibly work upon the mass mind if you are to conduct the work of your national congress and assembly in the language of foreigners. Do you for a moment think of the injustice you have been doing, your leaders have been doing to the masses in carrying out the national work in a foreign language. This is not the state of affairs conducive to the welfare of the people or their uplift. It is therefore absolutely necessary from every point of view that we must immediately begin our work in right earnest

If you permit me, I would invite your attention to the great revolutions that have been wrought in the History of the World, by the adoption of the language of the people. I must remind you of the work of Luther in Europe in Middle ages. What was the condition of Europe in the Middle ages, a prey to the fancies of the priestly class. It was not the Europe you see today, ready to fight for new ideas, ready to fight even their monarchs and their priests. Why was that? The history of the period will show the reason.. The language of the people was not the language of the literature, the language of the priestly and learned class. Luther saw it. He saw that Bible was a hidden book to the masses. The great ideas expressed in the Holdy book were merely something distant something that they were asked to worship, not to come in close contact with. That was the state of affairs. Luther saw that those ideas must teach the minds of the people in order to make them really just. He took the message of the Bible by translating it. It was the message of the Bible, it was the message of the language of the people. The Revolution was the result. The very fact that Luther and others after him approached the masses in their own language shows us the way. It was the power of thought that moulded the

people. Asoka and other Jain priests did the same thing.

Our leaders, I respectfully submit (one of them is here) in all humility that it is now time for them to approach the people in the language of the people. Let the classics remain over to be studied by the future generation. Let the present work be done in the language of the people. Many of you have read Milton's Paradise Lost. I remember to have read somewhere in his life that he intended to write about that great theme in Latin. Latin was the language of the learned. As a matter of fact Milton had written a good part of it in that language. It somehow suddenly struck him. What is the use if I spend my time and energy in writing about this great theme in Latin, because they will simply lie on the shelves of the learned. Nobody will read it after a few years. Therefore he write about that grand theme in the language of the people. He write it in the English language and you know the result if it. You know what place Paradise Lost occupies among the great books of the world. This writing in English changed the whole course of the future writers of English. English language is not your own. You may approach a few infinitesimal, a fraction of the mass. Our leaders are setting a bad example before the future generation. They are giving them a wrong lead. I remember my great ideal when I was an young man. I thought I should be a good speaker in English. I should be a good scholar in English. The Congress has set up a bad example.. The great speeches of W.C.Banerjee, Gokhale, Lala Lajput Rai are in English (Cheers). They were the ideals before me. I thought that the best thing for me was to attain a certain degree of perfection in the English language so that I may also in later years be able to take some part in the Congress. I submit that was a wrong ideal. Perhaps some of you will say that the times required it. We cannot change it. No use crying over spilt milk. Is it necessary for us to continue to deliberate in the English language. ,I say emphatically not. Not necessary. If we have to go to England for international work we have to know English. ,I would advise every young man studying in the College to know the English language well. What is worth doing is worth doing well.

But that does not mean that you should spear to your wives and children in English, you have to carry on your religious prayers in English. .Do not do Namaskaram in English. I submit it is shameful for us to continue to do so. At this moment I cannot do better than to read an extract what Mahatma Gandhi has said about this. It was spoke at a social service club. "The greatest service one can render society is to carry on our provincial proceedings in our respective vernaculars etc." To remove the evil and prepare our young men here to take their part in the Congress we have been working for the past 6 years. It was in 1918 that our mission began its work. We are doing some work in Madras and have spent about 20 thousand rupees, the greater ~~mk~~ portion of which came from outside Madras. The Madras friends did not then feel the necessity. Now they are feeling. Now they are coming to shoulder the reponsibility themselves. I therefore ask you to leave us and take your share of the work and make it possible to do some more work so as to bring about a great ~~xxxxxx~~ revolution by the adoption of Hindi in total. It is the true Swaraj work. I may say that the question of Hindi is the question of Swaraj. I submit it to you that today the question of Hindi is the question of Swaraj. Prepare for it and accelerate the doming of that day when Hindi will be the National language of India, Even at the next Congress if possible. I ask you and appeal to you to see that that day dawns as early as possible. Attempt it at the nextCongress. Let Hindi be the National language for India and let English have no place in national deliberations. I ask you to place this proposition before the Congress.

Mr. Shamanna then read an address to Lala Lajput Rai and then Mr. B. K. Garudachar requested Lala Lajput Rai on behalf of the audience to speak something on the subject.

Lala Lajput Rai thanked the members of the District Congress Committee for their kind welcome and said that he was not going to deliver any speech. He commended the proposal of Purushottam Das Tandon and requested the audience to take up that work as early as possible. He said "There cannot be any nation

possible. He said "There cannot be any nation without a national language."

Mr. B. K. Garudachar thanked the lecturer and Lala Lajput Rai on behalf of all those that were present and the meeting terminated at about 8 P.M. amidst loud shouts of "Vande Mataram", "Mahatmaji Ki Jai" and "Lala Lajput Rai Ki Jai".

3-1-25.

Sd.S.V.Krishna Rao.
Stenographer.

Copy

District Magistrate, Bangalore Dist.